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**Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa explains the situation on Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**

Our colleague Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual British-Iranian citizen, has been arrested in Iran during a family holiday on April 3. She was separated from her two year old daughter, and subsequently tried and jailed. She has been sentenced to five years imprisonment without the charges being ever made public.

All Nazanin's colleagues at the Foundation are extremely worried. I have been working very closely with Nazanin's husband Richard to try to secure her release. We have left no stone unturned, including putting pressure on the UK Foreign Office and the British authorities to intervene - up until now without any success. We have explored every possible channel to reverse this mockery of justice.

I am convinced that Nazanin is innocent. She never had to deal with Iran in her job at the Foundation. Richard and I believe that she is being used as a bargaining chip by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to obtain significant action from the British Government.

Nazanin remains incarcerated in Evin Prison in Tehran, where her health is failing. Last week she was on hunger strike and stopped after a visit from her mother in jail, but we have had no news of her since last Friday.

The facts are these:

- **April 3** - Nazanin is arrested at Tehran Imam Khomeini Airport just before boarding her flight home. The Revolutionary Guards in Tehran confiscate both hers and her daughter's passports. Gabriella is handed to Nazanin's parents who live in Tehran.
- **April 27** - Nazanin's family are told by the Intelligence Department of the Revolutionary Guard that Nazanin is being held for 'reasons relating to national security'. No further details are given.
- Nazanin is held in solitary confinement until May 18 in an undisclosed detention centre 1000km from Tehran in Kerman. She is subjected to harsh treatment and denied medical care, phone calls to her husband or access to a lawyer.
- We believe Nazanin signs some form of forced statement under duress. We do not know what it is.



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- **May 11** - She is allowed a first visit from her family living in Iran. She is so weak she cannot stand or lift her two-year-old daughter.
- **May 18** - Nazanin is moved from solitary confinement to the general women's wing in Kerman Prison. She shares a cell with several other detainees and sleeps on the floor. She has difficulty walking, suffers frequent blackouts, is losing her hair and has lost a dangerous amount of weight.
- **June 15** - The Iranian Revolutionary Guard release a statement accusing Nazanin of plotting 'the soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic' through working for a UK media network allegedly involved in activities against the Islamic republic. The exact charges remain secret.
- **August 14** - Nazanin is tried in Tehran Revolutionary Court. By Judge Salavati (known to be an extreme anti-Western judge). The trial remains a secret. Request for bail is refused.
- **September 6** - Nazanin is sentenced to five years imprisonment. Nazanin's family appeals the decision and still awaits a response.

The situation remains desperate. Nazanin has only been allowed five calls with her husband since her arrest. She has received no visits or assistance from the British Embassy in Tehran. She is extremely depressed. We remain very concerned about her safety and wellbeing.

**What you can do**

Sign a [petition](#) on [change.org](#) calling on UK Prime Minister Theresa May to help bring Nazanin home. Nearly 900,000 already have.

**[All statements on Nazanin from Foundation CEO Monique Villa](#)**

**[May 9 2016](#)**

**[June 15 2016](#)**

**[July 11 2016](#)**

**[August 2 2016](#)**

**[August 9 2016](#)**

**[September 9 2016](#)**

**[October 7 2016](#)**

**[November 21 2016](#)**